Continent Book Report

By: Matthew Lerch

I think by reading a book from a different country is always a good thing to do because it brings cultural differences to your mind and how things are over there instead of here. This book was more of a war based type than a culture, it talked about how the Vietnam army would use random villagers to attack the U.S.A. or be disguised a villager.

Sgt. Rick Hanski (the main character) isn’t the brightest person so he goes into the army and finds himself becoming a dog handler. Cracker (Rick’s dog) is not very well trained and doesn’t other people besides a kid named Willie who has to give her up because his apartment can’t have dog. After about a month of training cracker still isn’t listening to him so he starts to lose hope to whip the world as he says throughout the book. One day cracker and rick are training and she starts to learn how do to things. Soon they are top of the class and are going to lead the next practice mission. Cracker and Rick are going through the jungle and Cracker finds something Rick holds her back but he knows it’s and detonates the fake bomb and fails.

When I found out about this book Mrs. Clear said one of her students didn’t like it but I needed a book to read. Sometimes you just have to read a book and if you don’t like oh well and if you that’s great. I went on and read it and thought it was a nicely written book about the army’s ways and how they do things and about how dogs are so important to today’s armies. Not knowing what to expect out of this book it really surprised me by how this author described every detail and how string Cracker was for being a girl dog. On a personal level this book made me see the things that are going on around the world and think of how good we have it here in America. No fighting really or having to deal with a bad government or no hunger to deal with. I support all of the troops who risk their lives everyday around the world fighting for what they think is right because that’s better than just sitting and doing nothing about it.

This book was a war/ friendship building between a dog and a man. I would say if you like suspense, war, culture, dogs, and relationships then you would like this book and don’t judge a book by its cover or if someone said it was bad then don’t just put it back. If you’re a person who think that certain type of writing like cheesy sayings and childish noises aren’t then this book would be good. It’s a mature book and will leaving you wanting to read it. A suspenseful novel and great book.